# Utah State Charter School Board Meeting Minutes July 20, 2006 North & South Board Rooms Utah State Office of Education

# APPROVED - August 17, 2006

Members present: Julie Adamic, John Pingree, Scott Smith, Eric Smith, Sonia Zisumbo, Brian Allen via

phone conference

Members excused: Barbara Killpack

Staff present: John Broberg, Marlies Burns, Gary Belliston

Others present: Ray Timothy, Mark Cluff, representatives from Quest Academy, Monarch Academy,

Canyon Rim Academy and Guadalupe Schools

Director John Broberg reminded the Utah Charter School Board that last month, the board requested a work session prior to the general meeting of the Charter School Board to discuss R277-470, State Charter School Board By-Laws and new a Charter School approval process. He reminded the board this is a work session meeting, and not a meeting where motions or actions will be made and taken.

Mr. Broberg stated that the State Charter School Board had felt comfortable with Sections 1-10 of R277-470 but had concerns with section 11. Member Eric Smith stated the issues the State Charter School Board had with section 11 were forcing the size of the board to grow because of adding students and the definition of separate campuses and geographic miles.

- Increase of board size Member Julie Adamic stated she felt because of guidelines already set of 25% of the board consist of parents, it would be reasonable to keep those guidelines. The Charter School Board was in agreement with Ms. Adamic's statement.
- Campus setting and size Member Eric Smith stated his main issue with section 11 was to be adding extra restrictions to charter schools and taking away options. Mr. Smith stated he felt the whole point of charter schools was to open things up and to let people try different things. Member Brian Allen stated if satellite expansions are allowed, every satellite school be required to have one parent representative on their governing board. Deputy Superintendent Ray Timothy stated his understanding was the State Charter School Board feels a proposed expansion at a site other than the original site would be considered a new charter school and that the State Charter School Board does like the concept of satellite sites, but there is a need to address the issue of representation of the parents in the area where the new satellite site would be located. Member Eric Smith suggested that any proposed expansion that has a new site go through a notification process, if there is a new district involved, with the original charter application submitted; the need to go through the State Charter School Board approval process; and have local board members by adding elected parents from the local community.
- Charter School Board Bylaws Gary Belliston presented the Charter School Board Bylaws to the State Charter School Board. Member Eric Smith suggested having the bylaws read "duties and responsibilities are as outlined in Utah Code," that way the bylaws will not have to be changed, if and when the law changes. Suggestions and recommendations were made by several Charter School Board Meetings. Mr. Belliston will make the suggested corrections and changes in the document.

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• New Charter School Approval Process – Vice Chair Scott Smith reminded the State Charter School Board that a scoring rubric is being used for ranking new charter school applications. Ranking from one to twelve, the lowest score "wins". The decision was made to have the summations of the new charter school applications be discussed in the August 17<sup>th</sup> Charter School Board Meeting.

#### Call to Order

Vice Chair Scott Smith called the meeting to order.

## **Approval of Minutes**

Motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes from the June 15, 2006 State Charter School Board Meeting. The motion was carried unanimously.

## Vote for Chair and Vice Chair of State Charter School Board

Motion was made by Member John Pingree to nominate Vice Chair Scott Smith as Chair of the State Charter School Board. The motion was seconded, and was carried unanimously. Scott Smith accepted the nomination as Chair of the State Charter School Board.

Motion was made by Chair Scott Smith to nominate Member John Pingree as Vice Chair of the State Charter School Board. Member Julie Adamic seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

Chair Scott Smith stated he feels the State Charter School Board has a very good relationship with the State Board of Education, and thanked them for the effort they put forth concerning the Charter School movement in the State of Utah. Dr. Smith stated he also feels USOE's Charter School Staff has a good working relationship with them as well, and they rely heavily on the State Board of Education. Dr. Smith further stated because of some comments in past board meetings made by the State Charter School Board, because they question some actions of either the State Board of Education and/or that State Charter School Office, it appears they are not in alliance. Dr. Smith wanted to make sure the public knows the State Charter School Board does allow the Charter School Staff to act on the items they need to, without micro-managing them and also the State Charter School Board is unified in their actions.

#### R277-470

Member Eric Smith suggested keeping the rule of at least one elected parent and 25% of the board must be elected parents. Motion was made by Member Eric Smith and seconded by Member Julie Adamic to strike lines 350-357 from the rule. The motion was carried unanimously.

Member Eric Smith made motion to strike the entire section pertaining to site expansion and change it to have two basic concepts: 1)notify the local district so the district will have a chance to respond; 2)add one elected parent to governing board, per site. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Motion was made by Member Eric Smith and seconded by Julie Adamic to strike Section D – Lines 401-411 from R277-470. The motion was carried unanimously.

#### State Charter School Board By-Laws

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Question was raised concerning members of the State Charter School Board to receive insurance. Chair Scott Smith stated other state boards do receive insurance benefits and that Deputy Superintendent Ray Timothy would obtain clarification if the State Charter School Board would receive those benefits.

Motion was made by Member Eric Smith and seconded by Vice Chair John Pingree to approve the presented State Charter School Board By-Laws. The motion was carried unanimously.

Motion was made by Member Sonia Zisumbo and seconded by Member Eric Smith that three unexcused absences from State Charter School Board Meetings in the course of one year, would be considered your resignation. The motion was carried unanimously.

## Mountainville Academy Amendment

Representatives from Mountainville Academy presented the amendment request to their charter concerning Organizational Structure and the school's Governing Body to comply with R277-470.

Motion was made by Member Julie Adamic and seconded by Member Sonia Zisumbo to recommend approval of the requested amendments to Mountainville Academy's charter. The motion was carried unanimously.

## George Washington Academy Amendment

Representatives from George Washington Academy presented the amendment request to their charter concerning enrollment increases. Because of George Washington Academy being a new school, they are having difficulty filling 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade enrollment. Their request is to "bubble up" their Kindergarten and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade classes in order to obtain their approved 450 student enrollment cap for school year 2006-2007. To have 475 students in school year 2007-2008, 500 students in school year 2008-2009.

Member Eric Smith made clarification that the school would not be increasing their approved enrollment numbers, but create a bubble class for school year 2006-2007.

Motion was made by Member Eric Smith and seconded by Vice Chair John Pingree to recommend approval of George Washington Academy's request to create a "bubble class" for Kindergarten and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade for school year 2006-2007. The motion was carried unanimously.

#### Lincoln Academy Amendment

Representatives from Lincoln Academy presented the amendment request to their charter concerning clarification of admission, founding board and parent council, and curriculum. The State Charter School Board was informed the changes that were made to Lincoln Academy's Charter was to dissolve the Founding Council, since the school has opened for operation there is no need for that position in the school pertaining to voting rites, but the Founding Council's children would have preferential enrollment. Another change pertained to curriculum, to use Focus and Shirley English instead of SRA Language Art Program, and add biology and astronomy to their 9<sup>th</sup> grade curriculum.

Motion was made by Vice Chair John Pingree and seconded by Member Sonia Zisumbo to recommend approval of the requested amendments to Lincoln Academy's charter. The motion was carried unanimously.

#### Quest Academy

Representatives from Quest Academy informed the State Charter School Board that the school would serve grades K-9, and be located in Weber School District. The mission of Quest Academy is to provide students a

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challenging, technology rich environment, enabling young citizens to become leaders prepared for the challenges of an evolving global community.

Vice Chair John Pingree, Members Julie Adamic, Sonia Zisumbo, Eric Smith, and Chair Scott Smith expressed their concerns regarding Quest Academy's failure to apply to Weber District before applying to the State of Utah, only two labs to accommodate 700 students, computers in classrooms accessible to teachers, no 9<sup>th</sup> grade plan in application, admission procedures, possible location of school, Special Education funds, securing and payments of loans, procurement code and procedures, and professional development company obligations.

#### Monarch Academy

Representatives from Monarch Academy informed the State Charter School Board that the school would serve grades K-8, and be located in Jordan School District. The mission of Monarch Academy it to establish an environment that seeks to maximize the lifelong learning potential of each child by recognizing individual needs and learning styles within a core curriculum. This will be accomplished through the use of multi-sensory instruction, relationship development skills and parental involvement. This approach will strive to provide students with the academic, social and emotional foundations and skills necessary to become achieving and socially competent members of their community.

Janene Bowen from Jordan School District expressed the district's concerns regarding integrity of the application, virtually identical to other applications the district has received, difficulty to determine credibility of applicants, staffing; criteria for acceptance was not unclear, meeting requirements for LRBI, the configuration of K-8, minor governance concerns.

Vice Chair John Pingree, Members Eric Smith, and Julie Adamic expressed their concerns regarding curriculum, special education funding in budget, type of facility, and multi sensory vs. sensory integration.

#### Canyon Rim Academy

Representatives from Canyon Rim Academy informed the State Charter School Board that the school would serve grades K-6, and be located in Granite School District. The mission of Canyon Rim Academy is to cultivate an environment of academic excellence where all children stretch to achieve their maximum potential and enjoy the fruits of person academic accomplishment. Canyon Rim Academy has a vision to create a school build upon the principles of collaboration, accountability, academic rigor, and empowerment to achieve the highest standards of excellence in elementary education.

Linda Mariotti from Granite School District informed the State Charter School Board of the district's support to Canyon Rim Academy's Charter School application for a state charter. Ms. Mariotti also expressed the district's concerns regarding issues of financial obligation to the district, risk liabilities, and the conversion concept.

Mark Cluff, a member of the State Board of Education and Members Eric Smith and Julie Adamic expressed their concerns regarding facility payments before opening school for operation, the option to obtain a lease agreement with Granite School District and becoming a charter school chartered by the district.

Director John Broberg informed the State Charter School Board that his understanding is that if this board were to recommend approval of Canyon Rim Academy, the school would be considered one of the five schools that legislature has permitted to be chartered for school year 2007-2008. But, if Granite School District granted the charter, it would not be considered one of the five charter schools.

Ms. Mariotti informed the State Charter School Board that Granite District Board is not interested in chartering a school at this time.

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Member Eric Smith stated he knows the legislative intent, when the law was created (when there were "caps"), and a conversion charter school would not count towards those "caps."

Vice Chair John Pingree and Member Julie Adamic expressed their concerns regarding busing students to the school and teachers making the decision to be employed at Canyon Rim Academy.

#### **Guadalupe Schools**

Representatives from Guadalupe Schools informed the State Charter School Board that the school would serve grades K-3, and be located in Salt Lake City School District. The mission of Guadalupe School is to provide high quality, individualized instruction for children who are at risk of school failure.

Members Julie Adamic, Eric Smith, and Vice Chair John Pingree, expressed their concerns regarding converting to Charter School status through Salt Lake School District, the lottery process and random selection, building lease and size, and risk of losing United Way funding by becoming a charter school.

#### <u>Adjourn</u>

Motion was made by Member Eric Smith and seconded by Member Julie Adamic to adjourn.

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